

Message Text

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66

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPR-02 USIA-06 SS-15 SP-02 PRS-01 PA-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 CU-02 /052 W

----- 056286

R 081344Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1007

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE CLOSING TWO WEEKS EARLY

1. TOM SCHULLER, PRINCIPAL OF INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE (IC) INFORMS ME THAT HIS SCHOOL CLOSED YESTERDAY, JULY 8, TWO WEEKS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.

REASON IS THAT COUPLE OF DAYS AGO TWO SHELLS HIT SCHOOL AND PARENTS FELT THEY WERE PRESSING THEIR LUCK. SCHULLER HAD CONVENED REPRESENTA-

TIVE PARENTS' GROUP BEFORE MAKING DECISION. STUDENTS WILL GET FULL CREDIT. (MEANWHILE, AUB IS CONTINUING UNTIL END OF THIS MONTH.)

2. EVER SINCE IC'S NEW FACILITIES SOUTH OF BEIRUT WERE TAKEN OVER BY LEFTISTS, IC HAS OCCUPIED MAKESHIFT PREMISES AROUND AUB CAMPUS, INCLUDING CERTAIN EMPTY ACS BUILDING. ALTHOUGH SCHOOL, WHOSE STUDENT BODY TOTALS SOME 1,200, HAS THUS FAR DISPERED, SCHULLER IS UNCERTAIN ABOUT THE FUTURE. HE SHARES VIEW OF AUB OFFICIALS THAT IF THESE AMERICAN SCHOOLS WERE TO CLOSE DOWN, PREMISES WOULD IMMEDIATELY BE OCCUPIED BY MYRIAD OF SQUATTERS, MANY FROM BOMBED-OUT REFUGEE CAMPS, WHO HAVE ALREADY TAKEN OVER MANY EMPTY

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APARTMENTS IN RAS BEIRUT. PROSPECTS OF EVENTUALLY REOPENING THESE

INSTITUTIONS WOULD BE EXCEEDINGLY SLIM.

3. IN SCHULLER'S VIEW, IC (WHICH OPERATES 12 GRADES) HAS OVER
THE YEARS CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO SHAPING VIEWS OF CHILDREN
OF LEADING LEBANESE IN A MANNER FAVORABLE TO U.S. IDEALS AND VALUES.
SEELYE

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